

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 217632
ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-05 /013 R

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-----060284 121621Z /44

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 217632

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 5987, ACTION SECSTATE INFO
ADDIS ABABA BONN CAIRO DJIBOUTI ISLAMABAD KHARTOUM LONDON
MOGADISCIO MOSCOW NAIROBI PARIS ROME SANA USUN DTD 8/29/77.

QUOTE S E C R E T JIDDA 5987

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SO, US

SUBJ: ARMS FOR SOMALIA

REF: (A) JIDDA 5887, (B) STATE 195953

1. DURING MEETING WITH AMB ON AUG 28, FOREIGN
MINISTER SAUDI TOOK STRONG EXCEPTION TO USG DECISION
TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM TO SUPPLY MILITARY
EQUIPMENT TO SOMALIA. SAUD SAID THAT PURPOSE OF
THIS MILITARY SUPPLY PROGRAM IS TO COUNTERACT

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SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA AND THAT ARMS FROM THE
UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT SYMBOLIC
IMPORTANCE. FOR THE USG TO ANNOUNCE PUBLICLY
A DECISION TO SUPPLY ARMS TO SOMALIA AND THEN TO
APPEAR TO REVERSE THIS DECISION WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE
SYMBOLIC EFFECT AND WOULD BE CONTRARY TO BOTH USG
AND SAUDI INTERESTS IN THE REGION.

2. SAUD ADDED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARMS
SUPPLY PROGRAM WOULD NOT ALTER THE PROBLEM OF THE
OGADEN WHICH IS A LONG-STANDING CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE
BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA. HE SAID THAT HE COULD
NOT UNDERSTND THE UNITED STATES POSITION AND COULD
NOT BELIEVE THAT THE USG IS "AFRAID OF ETHIOPIA."

3. SAUD ALSO SAID THAT SAG HAD A GUARANTEE FROM THE
SOMALIS THAT THEY HAVE NO DESIGNS ON KENYA. UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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